

# Sub-megawatt DFC/T<sup>®</sup> Test Results and Future Plans

## A Powerful Opportunity

**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual DOE/U.N. Hybrid Conference and Workshop**

**Newport Beach, CA  
May 13-15, 2003**

***Hossein Ghezel-Ayagh***



# Vision 21 DFC/T<sup>®</sup> Project Objectives

- Design of multi-MW hybrid power plants
- Natural gas systems with ultra high efficiency (up to 75% LHV)
- Ultra low emissions:  $<.01$  lbs/MMBTU of  $\text{SO}_x$  and  $\text{NO}_x$
- Cost competitive with other energy systems
- Demonstration of DFC/T concept in subMW power plant configuration at Danbury and in Montana

# Project Status

## ▪ SUBSCALE HYBRID POWER PLANT

- Proof-of-concept tests of 250 kW stack and Capstone Model 330 completed after over 6,800 hours of operation including 2900 hours in DFC/T hybrid mode.
- NO<sub>x</sub> emissions below the detection limit of 0.1 ppm
- Power plant modifications including integration of a larger microturbine (Capstone C60) completed
- Operation of the modified system is underway

## • Multi-MW POWER PLANT DESIGN

- Conceptual design for 75% (LHV) efficient power plant initiated
- Parametric studies with regard to the effects of gas turbine compression ratio on power plant efficiency initiated

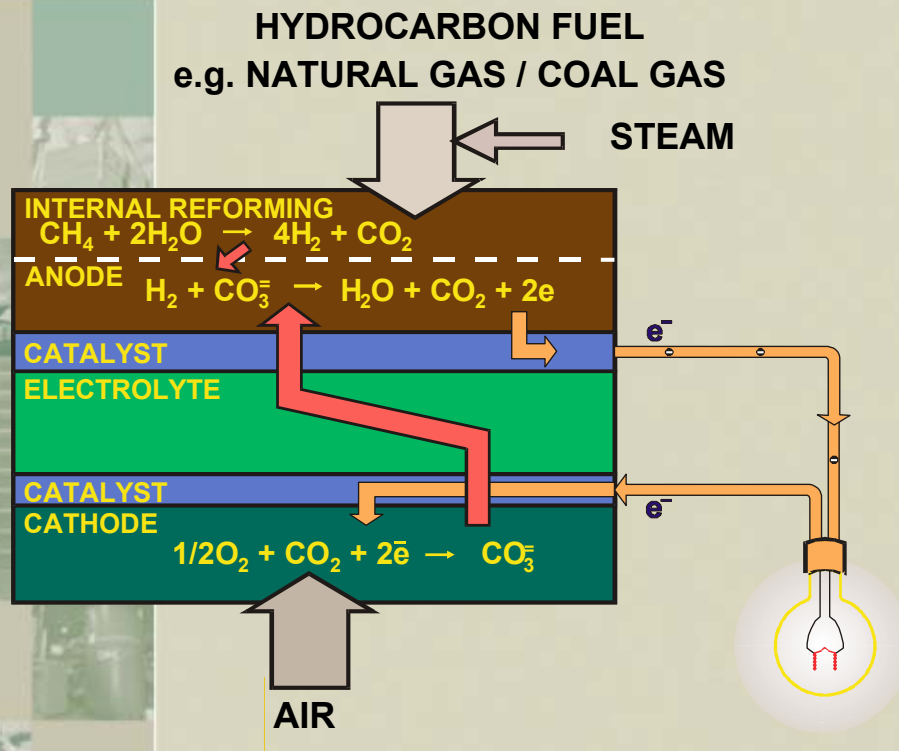
## ▪ DFC/T DEMONSTRATION

- Design of subMW unit initiated

# Technology

## Direct FuelCell®

### High Temperature Internal Reforming Direct FuelCell®

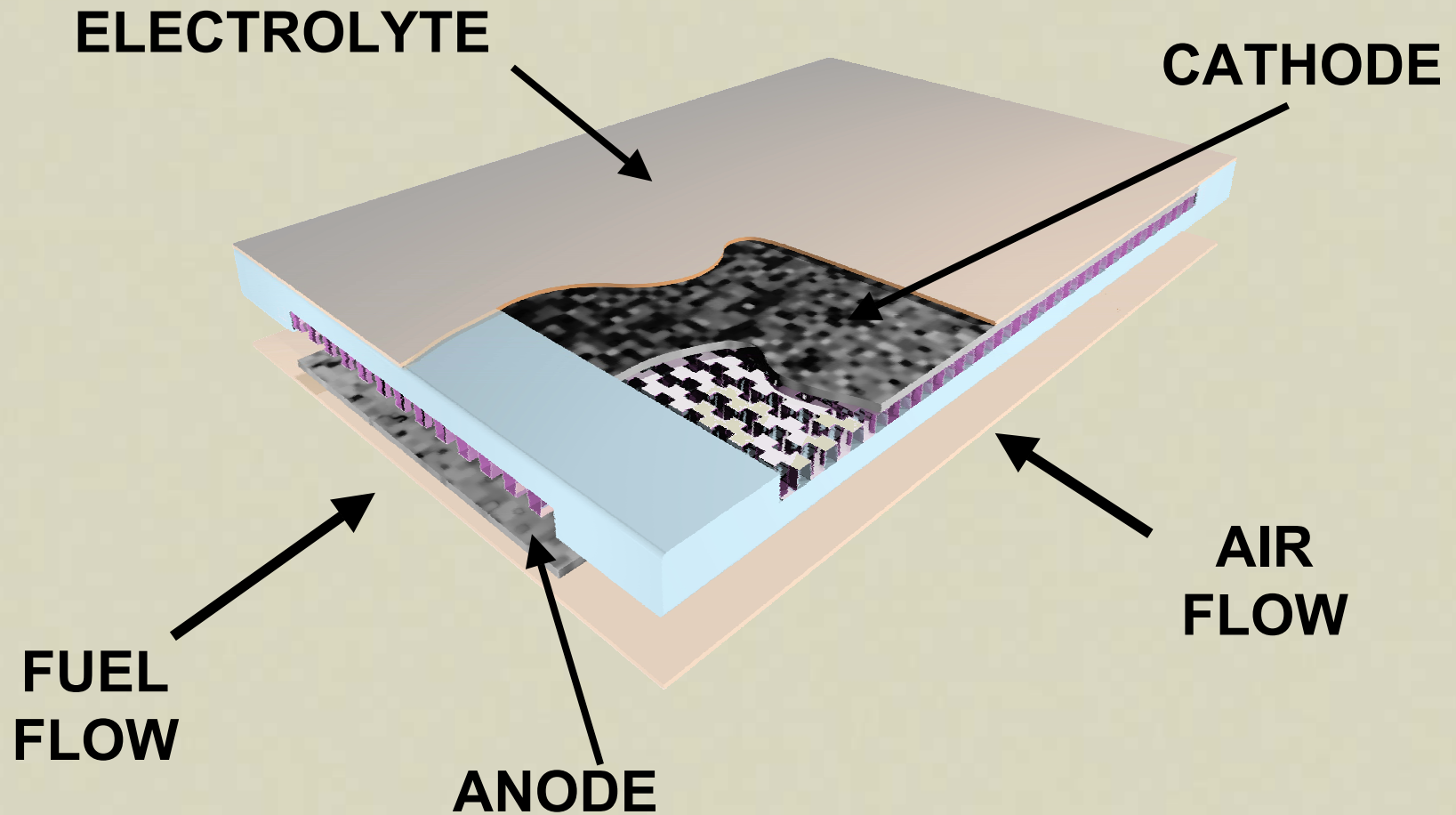


### The Direct FuelCell® Advantage

- Optimal Operating Temperature
  - ◆ Uses commonly available materials
  - ◆ No noble metal catalyst
  - ◆ High temperature by-product heat
- Internal Reforming
  - ◆  $\text{H}_2$  generated internally
  - ◆ High efficiency
  - ◆ Simpler system
  - ◆ Negligible  $\text{No}_x$
  - ◆ Reduced cooling requirement
- Atmospheric Pressure Operation
  - ◆ Allows unattended operation
  - ◆ More reliable

# DFC Components

## Fuel Cell Construction



# FuelCell Energy Products

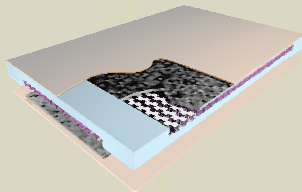
- Building block approach provides scalability and a standardized product to manufacture



**Sub-MW Power Plant**



**Sub-MW Module**

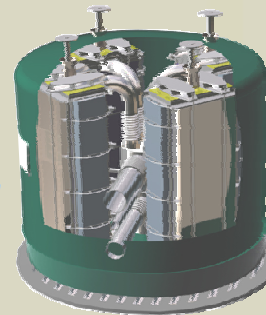


**Fuel Cell**

Distributed Energy Generation



**Stack**



**MW Module**



**MW Power Plant**



FuelCell Energy



# DFC Stacks Ready For Module Integration



Distributed Energy Generation



FuelCell Energy

# FuelCell Energy Core Products – 250kW-10MW



**DFC® 300**



**DFC® 1500**



**DFC® 3000**

## Product Characteristics

- High temperature, carbonate fuel cell power plants for base load commercial and industrial applications
- High electrical efficiency
- High value waste heat by-product for cogeneration
- Internally generated hydrogen from readily available fuels such as natural gas – operating at customer sites today

Distributed Energy Generation



**Multi-MW Grid Support**

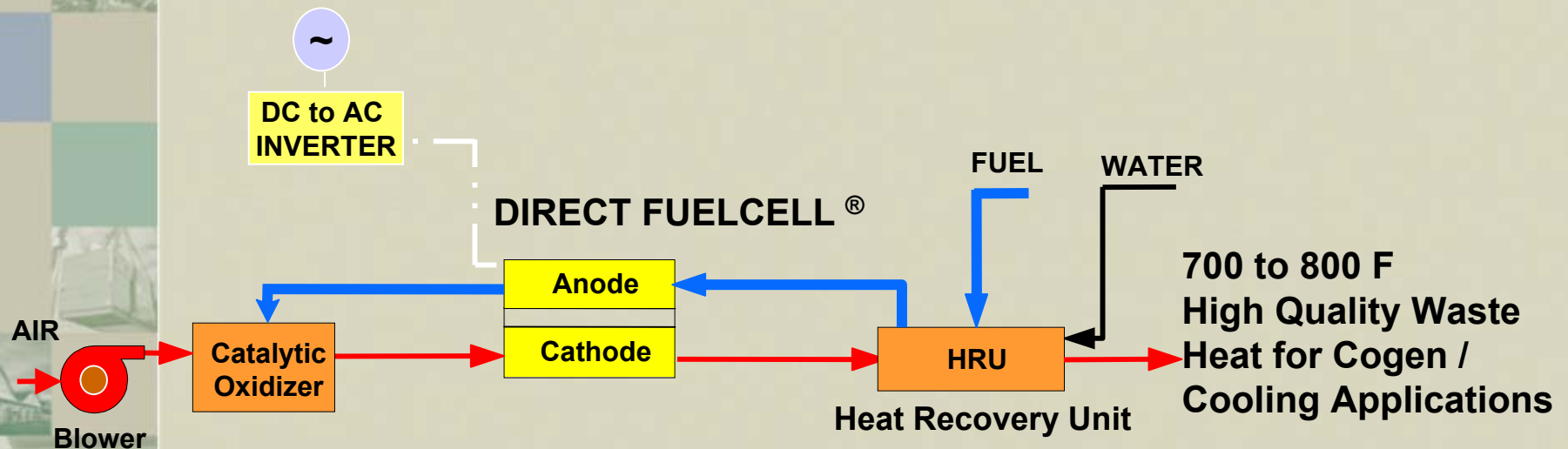


FuelCell Energy



# Simplified System Diagram

## Baseline Simple-Cycle Powerplant



**Residual 20 - 25% Fuel in Anode Exhaust is Used in Catalytic Oxidizer to Preheat Cathode Air**

**Cathode Exit Gas is used for Fuel Preheat and Water Vaporization**

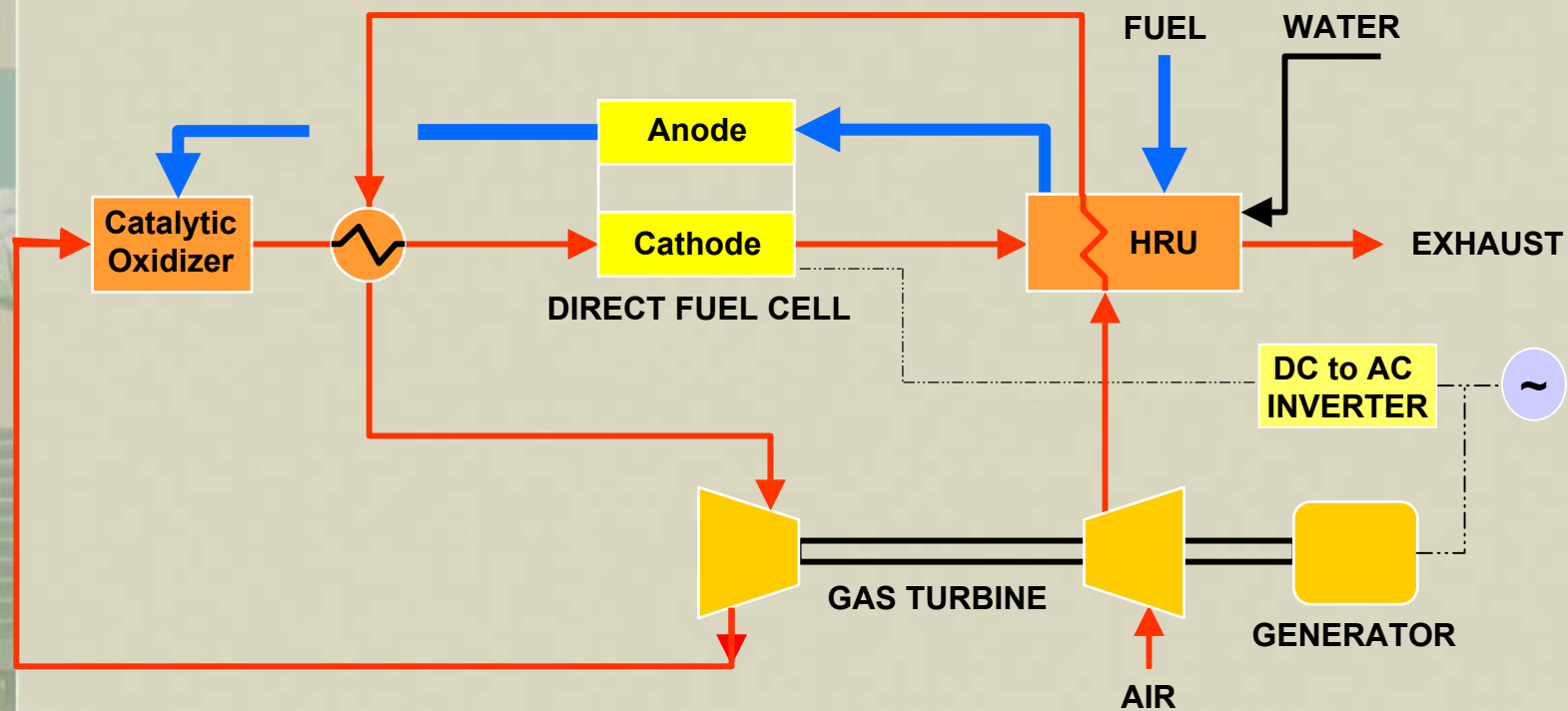


***No External Reformer***



***Air Blower Only Prime Mover***

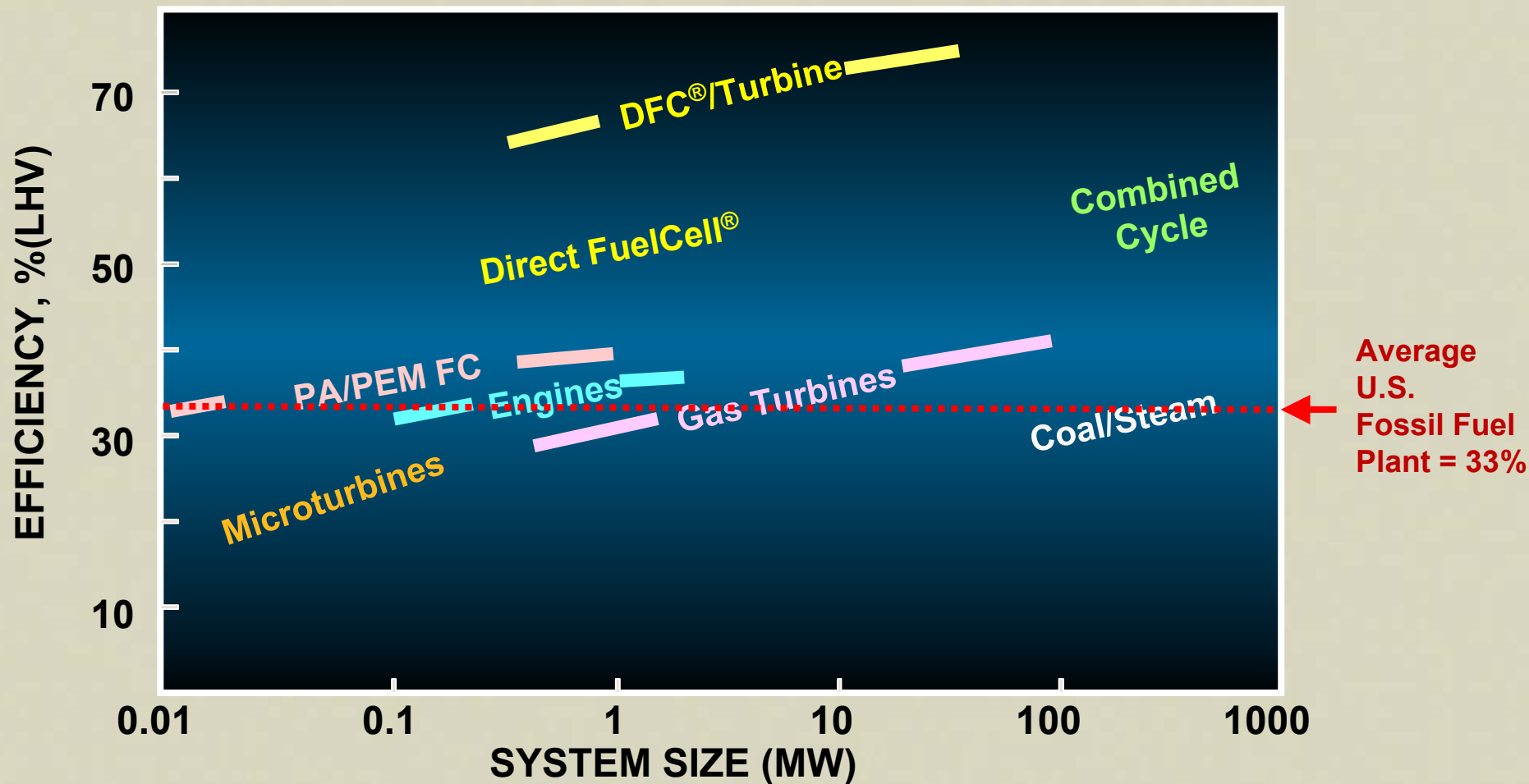
# High Efficiency Hybrid DFC® / Turbine Power Plant



➡ *Low Cost of Electricity Compared to Combined Cycles*

➡ *Efficiencies of ~ 75% are Possible*

# Fuel Cells Conserve Energy Resources



# Subscale DFC/T Integration Test Objectives

- **Proof-of-concept DFC/T system – integration of 250 kW DFC® stack with microturbine**
- **Gain operational and design experience**
- **Develop and identify the design of critical components for DFC/T systems**



# **SubMW DFC/T System: Microturbine Characteristics**

- **Optimized turbine inlet temperature at ~1400-1500° F**
- **Mechanical modifications (compressor exit port and turbine inlet port)**
- **Range of air flows suitable for fuel cell operation (1-1.6 lbs/sec)**
- **Capability to control air flows with load**
- **Integration of microturbine's controller/data acquisition hardware to fuel cell control system.**



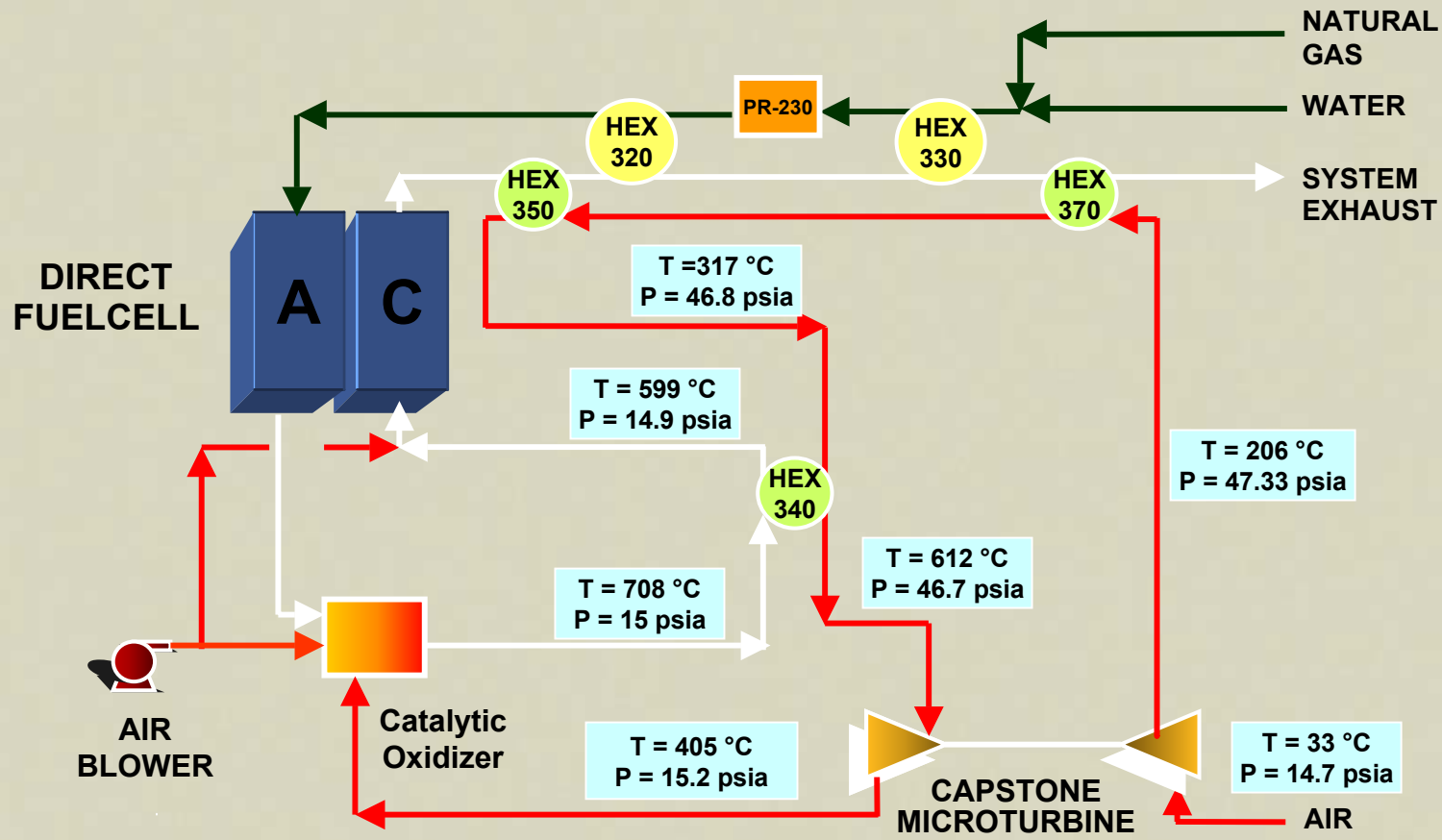
# Modified Capstone Model 330 MicroTurbine™



***Capstone Simple Cycle Model 330 MicroTurbine™ at FCE Test Area***

# SubMW Scale DFC/T Power Plant Process Flow Diagram

- Flexibility of operation to run the fuel cell either as standalone unit or integrated with the microturbine is incorporated



# Testing Of Alpha Unit With Micro Turbine



- *Successful proof-of-concept testing of 250kW Direct FuelCell® with Capstone Micro turbine verifies design concepts.*

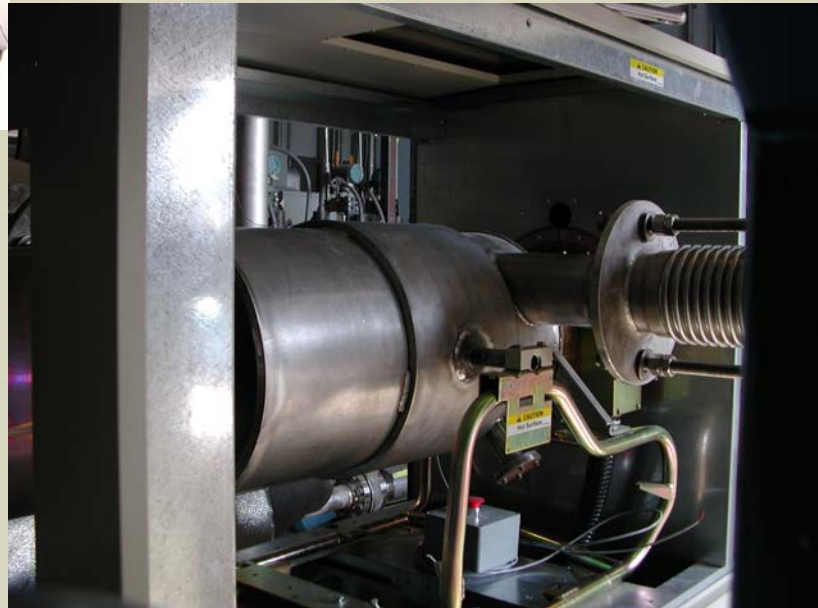
# Subscale DFC/T Proof-of-Concept Test Results

 The stack was operated for over 6,800 hours, including 2,900 hours of turbine (DFC/T hybrid) operation.

<b>Fuel Cell DC Power</b>	<b>222.8 kW</b>
<b>Gross Fuel Cell AC Power (est.)</b>	<b>206.3 kW</b>
<b>Microturbine Power</b>	<b>9.5 kW</b>
<b>Parasitic Power</b>	<b>6.5 kW</b>
<b>Net AC Power (est.)</b>	<b>209.3 kW</b>
<b>Net Efficiency (LHV)</b>	<b>50.7%</b>
<b>Net Efficiency Adjusted for ISO Conditions (LHV)</b>	<b>51.7%</b>

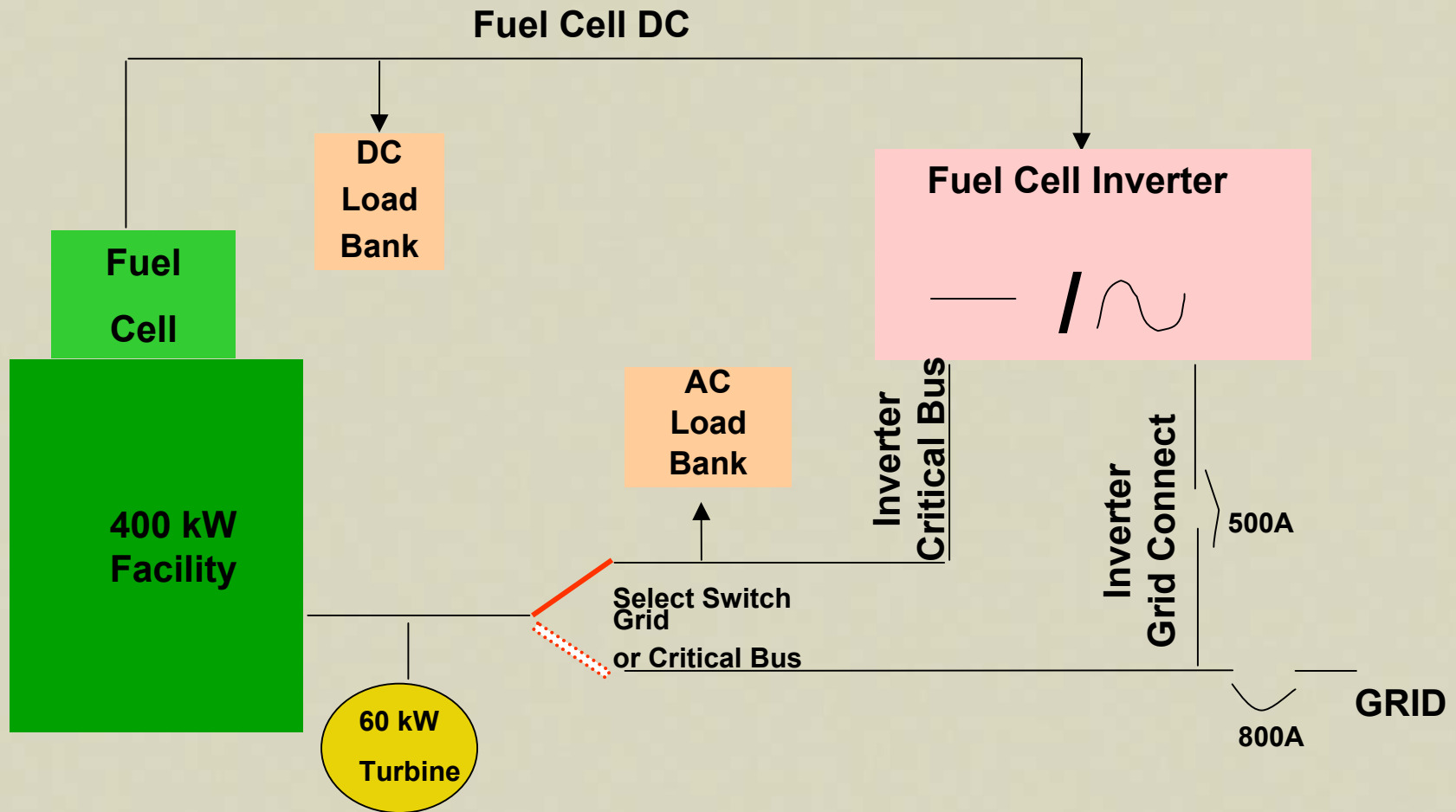


# Capstone C60 Microturbine Integrated with Balance of Plant



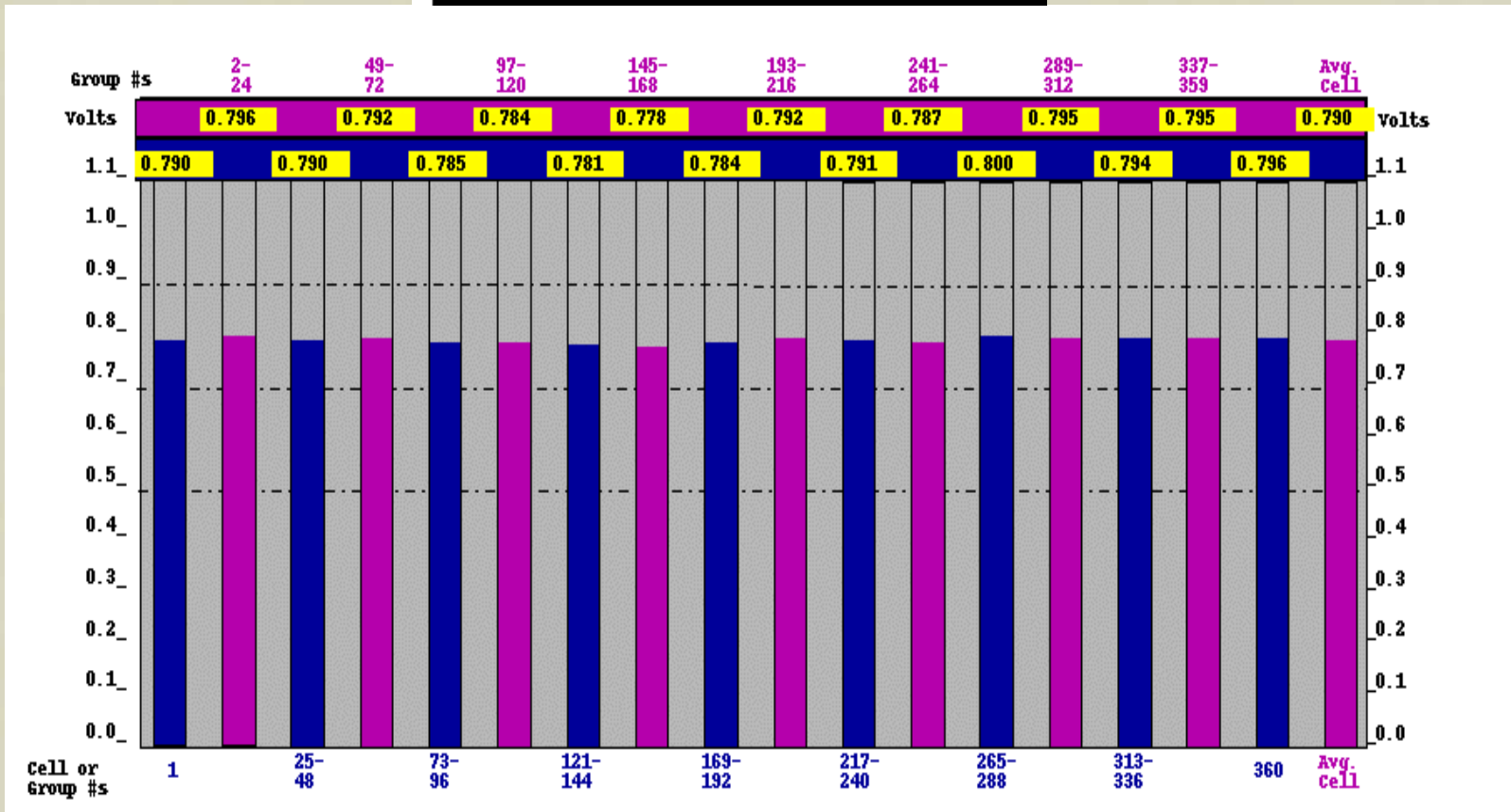


# SubMW DFC/T Electric Diagram



# Performance Characteristics of 250kW Alpha Unit

AVERAGE VOLTAGES IN GROUPS



STACK FA-100-3 PERFORMANCE UNIFORM CELL PERFORMANCE



# Recent Accomplishments

- The microturbine was utilized as the only source for supplying fresh air to the system
- The tests of the power plant heat-up confirmed the stable and well-controlled with a the microturbine
- The subMW DFC/T system benchmarked the operation at ~ 250 kW in grid connected mode with a dc-to-ac inverter and the microturbine connected to the grid in parallel.

# Objectives Met

- **Verified DFC/T<sup>®</sup> concept**
- **Modes of operation tested**
  - ▶ **Fuel cell only**
  - ▶ **Fuel cell with turbine integrated and operated at various operating conditions**
- **Thermal management confirmed**
  - ▶ **Fuel cell operating temperature**
  - ▶ **MT expander inlet temperature**
- **Trip/emergency scenarios tested successfully**
- **Refinement of control strategies thru operational experience**

# SubMW Class DFC Stationary Product:

## DFC<sup>®</sup> 300A

### Plant Specifications

Power Output	Efficiency (LHV)	Heat Rate
250 kW	47 %	7,260 Btu/kWh

### Emissions

NOx	< 0.3 ppmv
SOx	<0.01 ppmv
CO	<10 ppmv
VOC	<10 ppmv

### Available Heat

Exhaust Temperature	~ 650° F
Exhaust Flowrate	3,000 lbs/hr
Exhaust Absolute Humidity	~20% by volume





# SubMW Class DFC/T<sup>®</sup> Demonstration Units

## INTEGRATION OF MICROTURBINE IN DFC<sup>®</sup> 300 FUEL CELL SYSTEM



# Future Developments

- **Continue sub-scale DFC/T power plant tests with a Capstone model C60 Microturbine**
- **Complete design of the Multi-MW DFC/T power plant**
- **Investigate suitable gas turbine and recuperator technologies for DFC/T systems**
- **Design, fabricate and test a subMW DFC/T unit to be tested at Danbury, CT, followed by field demonstration of a second unit in Montana**